

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02
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NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 DOE-11
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4659
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 00394

CW MESSAGE NO. 2

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM US UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS,
ROUND SEVEN: FIRST PLENARY MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1978

1. SUMMARY: AT THE FIRST PLENARY OF ROUND SEVEN,
SOVIET DEL MADE OPENING STATEMENT FOCUSING
ON SCOPE. SOVIET DEL MAINTAINED PAST POSITION ON
FORM OF JOINT INITIATIVE FOR CCD (I.E., COMPLETE
TREATY TEXT) AND HANDED OVER REVISED DRAFT TEXTS OF
POSSIBLE TREATY ARTICLES RELATED TO SCOPE. SOVIET
DEL ALSO NOTED THE APPROACHING UN SPECIAL SESSION ON
DISARMAMENT (SSOD) AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF MANY
COUNTRIES, AS EVIDENCED AT THE 32ND UNGA, THAT THE
1978 CCD SPRING SESSION "WILL ACHIEVE CERTAIN RESULTS"
ON A CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROHIBITION. USDEL DEFERRED
MAKING FORMAL OPENING STATEMENT UNTIL AFTER STUDY OF
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SOVIET STATEMENT. USDEL BRIEFLY RESPONDED TO SOVIET
DEL REMARKS ON SSOD, EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF THE
SSOD FOR ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT WORK IN GENERAL,
AND REITERATED US POSITION THAT JOINT INITIATIVE
SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CCD IN FORM OF KEY ELEMENTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND SEVEN OF THE US-USSR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) WAS HELD AT THE SOVIET MISSION AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 10. SOVIET DEL IS THE SAME AS PREVIOUS ROUND EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF NEW ADVISER FROM SOVIET MFA, V.P. ABARENKOV. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE US DEL WITH BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON NEW MEMBER OF SOVIET DEL. (REPORTEDLY ABARENKOV HAS PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF OTHER DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF KRASSULIN'S SECTION IN THE MFA.)

3. AMBASSADOR V.I. LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) MADE FAIRLY LENGTHY STATEMENT FOCUSING ON SCOPE. IN GENERAL, THE TONE OF THE SOVIET PRESENTATION WAS BUSINESSLIKE AND SEEMED TO CONVEY A SOMEWHAT GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY REGARDING COMPLETION OF JOINT INITIATIVE AT AN EARLY DATE. LIKHATCHEV ACKNOWLEDGED CCD ASPIRATIONS TO BEGIN WORK IN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CW BEFORE OPENING OF UN SPECIAL SESSION OF DISARMAMENT (SSOD) STATING THAT THE APPROACHING SSOD "ADDS SOME NEWNESS TO THE SITUATION AND MAKES IT IMPERATIVE FOR US TO DEVELOP AN AGREED LINE." LIKHATCHEV ALSO REITERATED SOVIET BELIEF THAT JOINT INITIATIVE FOR CCD SHOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A "JOINT AND FULL TEXT OF A CONVENTION." LIKHATCHEV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NO AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE EXISTED AS YET BUT REINFORCED CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET INTENT BY HANDING OVER DRAFT TEXTS OF TREATY ARTICLES.

4. LIKHATCHEV PRESENTED REVISED TEXTS OF FOUR ARTICLES DEALING WITH SCOPE. (TEXTS TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL; DEL ANALYSIS ALSO TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.) HE SAID THAT WHERE POSSIBLE SOVIETS HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS PRESENTED BY THE US. LIKHATCHEV REMARKS ON EACH ARTICLE NOTED BELOW.

A. ARTICLE I. THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS THE BASIC PROHIBITION. LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT BOTH SIDES WANT THE PROHIBITION TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE ONE AND AGREE THAT THE SCOPE SHOULD BE BASED ON THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION. IN ADDITION, BOTH SIDES TAKE THE POSITION THAT TOXICITY SHOULD BE USED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY CRITERION AND AGREE ON THE LEVELS TO BE USED AS THE LETHAL AGENT THRESHOLD (LCT50 20,000 MG-MIN/M3 BY INHALATION AND LD50 10 MG/KG FOR SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION). TURNING TO "HARMFUL AGENTS", LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT PROHIBITION OF HARMFUL AGENTS SHOULD BE BASED ON THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO LIST THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUCH

AGENTS. HE NOTED THAT POSITIONS CONTINUE TO DIFFER REGARDING INCLUSION OF IRRITANTS. LIKHATCHEV SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO SIDES TRY TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE BY USING A SUPPLEMENTARY CRITERION BASED ON ON A SPECIFIC "LEVEL OF HARMFULNESS." LIKHATCHEV ALSO STATED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE COULD AGREE WITH THE US PROPOSAL TO APPLY THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION TO ALL PRECURSORS AND WAS PREPARED TO DROP THE TERMS "SINGLE-PURPOSE PRECURSOR" AND "DUAL-PURPOSE PRECURSOR" AS BEING AMBIGUOUS. IN THE TEXT OF ARTICLE I THEY PREFERRED TO USE THE FORMULATION "LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS, HARMFUL AND OTHER CHEMICAL AGENTS AND SUBSTANCES." FINALLY, LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES COINCIDED ON THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES TO BE COVERED.
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B. ARTICLE II. THIS WAS PRESENTED AS A NEW ARTICLE,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 00394

OBLIGATING STATES PARTIES NEVER TO DEVELOP, PRODUCE,
STOCKPILE OR ACQUIRE NEW TYPES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.
(COMMENT: IT IS MERELY A REVISED VERSION OF A PREVIOUS

SOVIET DRAFT ARTICLE. END COMMENT.) LIKHATCHEV SAID IT HAD BEEN DRAFTED BECAUSE IN THE PAST THE US, AND OTHER CCD MEMBERS, HAD SAID THAT THE PROHIBITION OF NEW TYPES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN A CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. HE NOTED THAT THE ARTICLE COVERS NOT ONLY DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF NEW TYPES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH RETENTION SINCE "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RETAIN WHAT IS NON-EXISTENT OR SHOULDN'T EXIST AT ALL."

C. ARTICLE III. THIS ARTICLE, WHICH IS BASICALLY A NON-TRANSFER, NON-ASSISTANCE PROVISION, WAS DESCRIBED AS SELF-EXPLANATORY. NO CLARIFICATION WAS THOUGHT NECESSARY "SINCE THE TWO SIDES HAVE THE SAME VIEW ON THIS QUESTION."

D. ARTICLE X. THIS ARTICLE DEALS WITH THE RIGHT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STATES TO RETAIN AGENTS FOR NONHOSTILE PURPOSES. LIKHATCHEV STATED THAT THE TWO SIDES SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE JOINT INITIATIVE SHOULD CLEARLY STATE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN QUANTITIES OF CHEMICAL AGENTS WOULD BE ALLOWED. STATES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF AGENTS THEY WILL RETAIN.

5. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF USDEL) DEFERRED USDEL PRESENTATION UNTIL AFTER DEL HAD STUDIED SOVIET STATEMENT AND PROPOSALS. FISHER, HOWEVER, AGREED SSOD HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR "ALL PHASES OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT", AND AGREED WITH LIKHATCHEV'S VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE CCD ATTACHES TO ITS ROLE IN ELABORATING A CW CONVENTION. FISHER POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS THE BASIS FOR THE US POSITION THAT THE JOINT INITIATIVE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CCD IN THE FORM OF KEY ELEMENTS RATHER THAN AS A COMPLETE TREATY TEXT.

6. NEXT PLENARY MEETING WILL BE HELD AFTERNOON, JANUARY 12. VANDEN HEUVEL

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